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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 3561
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 1452
RHMFISS/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RHMFISS/CJTF HOA
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9110

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 000843

SIPDIS

FOR DS/IP/AF, S/CT, CA/OCS/ACS/AF

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/04/2019

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [TZ](#)

SUBJECT: TWO BOMBINGS AT LOCAL CLUBS IN ZANZIBAR TOWN,
TANZANIA DURING EID EL HAJJ

Classified By: RSO PAUL AVALLONE FOR REASON 1.4 (b) AND (d)

¶1. (U) On Sunday, November 29, 2009 between 2200 and 2215, explosions occurred at two nightclubs near the Stone Town area of Zanzibar Town, Unguja Island, Tanzania. The attacks were the first targeting nightclubs in Tanzania, but were likely isolated incidents. The blasts were thirteen minutes apart at the Gymkhana Club and Intro Bar during the festival of Eid el Hajj. One person was injured in the blast, treated at a local hospital, and subsequently released.

¶2. (C) RSO and A/RSO spoke with the Director of Criminal Investigations, Mussa Ali Mussa regarding the attacks. He stated the local population had been attempting to block the opening of the locations because they were concerned that the youth in the community would become corrupted by their presence. The locals had initially attempted to block the openings via the court system, but Tanzanian law decided in favor of the club owners. As a preemptive measure, the Regional Police Commissioner appeared on television and appealed to the local populace to respect the holiday and not behave inappropriately. These two clubs remained open. Mussa believed that the additional anger associated with drinking and dancing during the holiday was a contributing factor to the attacks. He was uncertain if this attack was perpetrated by an individual or group, but the proximity of the locations made it possible that one individual could have conducted both attacks. The Tanzanian police are actively investigating the case and Mussa was confident they would be able to identify and apprehend the suspect or suspects.

¶3. (C) Initially there was speculation that the explosive materials used in the attacks were petrol or dynamite. Mussa was working with Tanzanian People's Defense Force explosives teams to try to identify the materials used but the damage caused was indicative of something more powerful than a typical petrol bomb. At both locations blocks were damaged and, at the Intro Bar, two iron sheets were ripped from the building. The investigation concluded that in each instance, the bomb was thrown over a perimeter wall and either rolled off the roof onto the ground outside the establishment or landed some distance from the building mitigating the potential for more injuries. Mussa also stated that it would have been possible, with a well placed throw, to get the bomb into the buildings. This revelation indicated the attacker did not adequately plan the attacks or intended to intimidate rather than kill.

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